Ipsos Public Affairs



(202) 463-7300

Interview dates: August 27 – August 31, 2009
Interviews: 1,057 adults; 903 registered voters
499 Democrats/Lean Democrats; 401 Republicans/Lean Republicans
Margin of error: ± 3.01 for all adults; ± 3.26 for registered voters
± 4.39 for Democrats; ± 4.89 for Republicans

Ipsos/McClatchy Poll PROJECT #81-4621-23

NOTE: all results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted August 27 – August 31, 2009. For the survey, a nationally representative, randomly selected sample of exactly 1,057 adults aged 18 and older across the United States was interviewed by Ipsos. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate within 3.01 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult population in the U.S. been polled. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error. These data were weighted to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the actual U.S. population according to U.S. Census figures. Respondents had the option to be interviewed in English or Spanish.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

1. As of right now, do you favor or oppose the healthcare reform proposals presently being discussed?

	8/27-
	31/09
Favor	40
Oppose	45
(Don't have an opinion)	14
(Don't know/Not sure)	1

2a. Should the primary goal of a national health care overhaul be more to extend health insurance to the millions of Americans who now lack it, or should the primary goal be to rein in the rising costs of health care? If you had to choose one goal over the other, which would you choose? (Asked of half of respondents in August)

	8/27-	7/9-
	31/09	13/09
Extend health insurance to Americans who now lack it	49	46
Rein in the rising costs of health care	39	44
(There should not be a health care overhaul)	4	5
(Don't know/Not sure)	8	4

2b. Should the primary goal of a national health care overhaul be more to extend health insurance to the millions of Americans who now lack it, or should the primary goal be to rein in the rising costs of health care? If you had to choose one goal over the other, which would you choose? (Asked of half of respondents in August; not asked in July)

	8/27-
	31/09
Extend health insurance to Americans who now lack it	43
Rein in the rising costs of health care	40
Both	7
(There should not be a health care overhaul)	4
(Don't know/Not sure)	7

3a. Which of the following parties involved in health care reform do you trust the MOST to make sure that all Americans have access to quality healthcare?

	8/27-	7/9-
	31/09	13/09
Doctors and other health practitioners	28	20
President Barack Obama	27	26
Republicans in Congress	14	10
Democrats in Congress	12	14
Health insurance companies	4	9
Pharmaceutical companies	1	3
(None of them)	11	13
(Don't know/Not sure)	4	5

3b. Which of the remaining parties involved in health care reform do you trust the LEAST to make sure that all Americans have access to quality healthcare?

	8/27-	7/9-
	31/09	13/09
Health insurance companies	20	19
Republicans in Congress	18	20
Democrats in Congress	17	16
Pharmaceutical companies	15	17
President Barack Obama	14	14
Doctors and other health practitioners	4	6
(None of them)	6	5
(Don't know/Not sure)	6	4

One of the points being debated is whether or not the government should create a public health insurance plan as an alternative to private insurance plans.

4. Which of the following is closest to your opinion?

	8/27-	7/9-
	31/09	13/09
It is necessary to create a public health insurance plan to make sure		
that all Americans have access to quality healthcare	49	52
Access to quality healthcare for all Americans can be achieved without		
having to create a public health insurance plan	46	44
(Don't know/Not sure)	5	4

5. Do you favor or oppose the following?

			(No	
	Favor	Oppose	opinion)	(Not sure)
Specific regulations to ensure basic patients' rights, such as			. ,	
portability of coverage	74	15	8	2
Legislation to permit the creation of insurance co-operatives				
NOT run by the government	54	36	9	1
Creation of a public entity to directly compete with existing				
health insurance companies	49	41	8	2

6. In thinking about health care reform, which of the following comes closest to your own personal opinion?

The focus of health care reform should be on making gradual but	
continuous improvements	75
The focus of health care reform should be on fixing everything at once	22
(Don't know/Not sure)	3

PARTY AFFILIATION / IDEOLOGY

1. Are you currently registered to vote at this address, or not?

2a. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?

(IF "DEMOCRAT" TO Q.2a, Q.2b ASKED. IF "REPUBLICAN" TO Q.2a, Q.2c ASKED. IF "INDEPENDENT" or "NONE OF THESE" TO Q.2a, Q.2d ASKED. RESULTS SHOWN IN SUMMARY BELOW.)

- 2b. Do you lean strongly or only moderately toward the Democratic Party?
- 2c. Do you lean strongly or only moderately toward the Republican Party?
- 2d. Do your beliefs tend to lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

Strongly Democrat	24
Moderately Democrat	10
Lean Democrat	14
Strongly Republican	12
Moderately Republican	10
Lean Republican	16
Independent (No lean)	15
Initial Democrats	34
Total Democrats	47
Initial Republicans	22
Total Republicans	38